

hands-on display of America's armored firepower. They were also introduced to several of the 100th Division's finest drill sergeants who acted as the group's escorts for the weekend, as well as to provide a realistic military "structure" to their activities. The group in-processed and received issued equipment for the weekend, much the same way as an Army Reservist reporting for duty would upon entering service. The group also toured the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, where they were treated to a dinner.

On April 12 the group was able to engage enemies in tank simulators, shoot M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons, and complete a Basic Combat Training obstacle course. Participating in these activities and many more allowed the staffers to appreciate the value of today's Army Reserve, according to Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, and an ardent USARAD supporter.

"We want to showcase our soldiers. It's an opportunity to strut our stuff if you will, and to tell about the great soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve," said Helmly, who was at Ft. Knox attending USARAD. "We're proud of them of them, and we want to tell everybody, especially members of congress and the American public how proud of them we are."

Many of the congressional staffers found the weekend's activities enjoyable. They were able to observe, and in many cases use, the Army Reserve's most advanced weaponry, equipment and tactics. The weekend was geared to be fun, but many of the staffers also expressed the educational value of attending USARAD.

"It puts a face on your mission,"

said Danny Kistler, representing Sen. Kaye Bailey Hutchison, of Texas. "It's one thing to hear about your mission and what you hope to achieve, but it's another thing for us to come down and be able to take faces and personal stories back with

went to Godman Army Airfield at Ft. Knox and viewed a variety of aircraft, including three CH-47 "Chinooks". The CH-47's also served as the group's mode of transportation to Louisville, where it attended a barbecue and viewed



100TH DIVISION

Lindsay Arnold, representing Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., watched as her colleagues moved through the obstacle course at Fort Knox while Lt. Col. Jean McGinnis, of the Army Liaison Office, cheered.

us," said Kistler.

Many of the staffers echoed Kistler's thoughts. Some felt that USARAD enabled them to get a realistic feel for what America's fabled 'weekend warriors' are really capable of achieving.

"It's been humbling," said Joe Laird, who represented Sen. Mike Enzi, of Wyoming. "It gives a feeling of admiration and respect. They're (reservists) actually using these technologies that we're just seeing briefly today to help secure our freedoms," said Laird.

Static displays throughout the weekend allowed the visitors to further see what the many units of the 100th Division and the Army Reserve have to offer. The group

"Thunder Over Louisville," an annual air show and fireworks display. While in Louisville they also visited the Benjamin J. Butler Army Reserve Center, the headquarters for the 100th Division. The whirlwind tour of the Army Reserve that the staffers received during USARAD was an eye-opening experience for some.

Cari Knowles, of the U.S. House of Representatives Chief Administrative Office, said that the activities provided her with, "an awareness of your (Army Reserve) capabilities and how you can better

See **SHOWCASE**
on page 19